ZAGREB

Sesvete is the largest area in the city of Zagreb and is essentially residential, with a population density of 3,368 people per square kilometer and a meager 3.1% of green spaces. The neighborhood faces several distinct challenges, such as limited green spaces, even with numerous vacant factory buildings, as well as issues related to the presence of asbestos in former factories and illegal waste disposal.

In Sesvete, the abandoned Sljeme is a once-thriving former meat factory and pig farm that played a significant role in the Balkan meat industry for over a century. However, in just a decade, what took more than a century to establish has been largely dismantled, mainly due to the turbulent transition from a socialist system to a market economy in the mid-90s. Irregular privatizations, mismanagement, private interests and corruption eventually led to bankruptcy in 2006. Since 2017, the Sljeme complex has been owned by the municipality of Zagreb. Despite having a history of many transformations, the site presents an ideal opportunity for the development of the city center, standing out for being well connected to the rail network and future road networks, and for having a high potential for regeneration and repurpose.

City Population size	M	**Productive focus**	Digital technology and artisanship
Population density	Zagreb Sesvete: 3,368 people/km2	**Partners**	Fab Lab Zagreb, University of Zagreb
Pilot scale	Neighborhood	**Website**	Cartography web

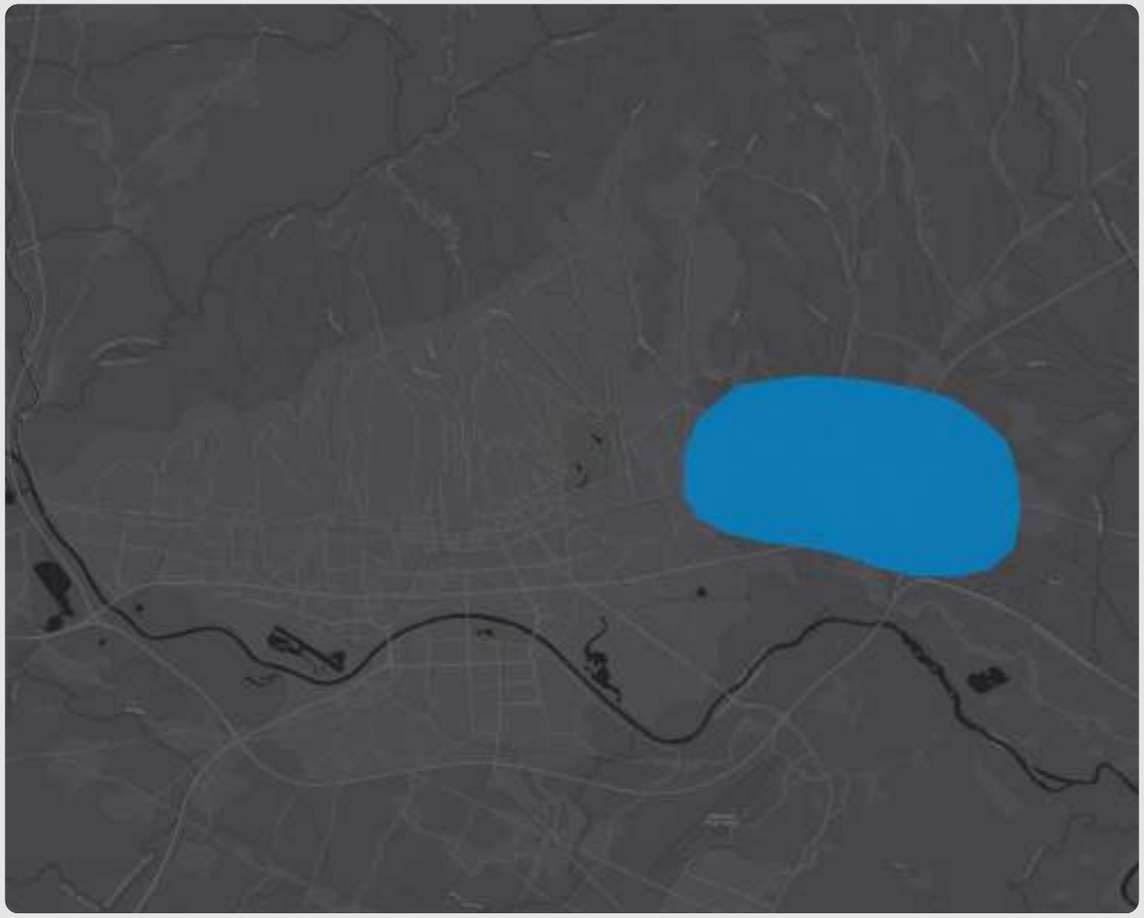


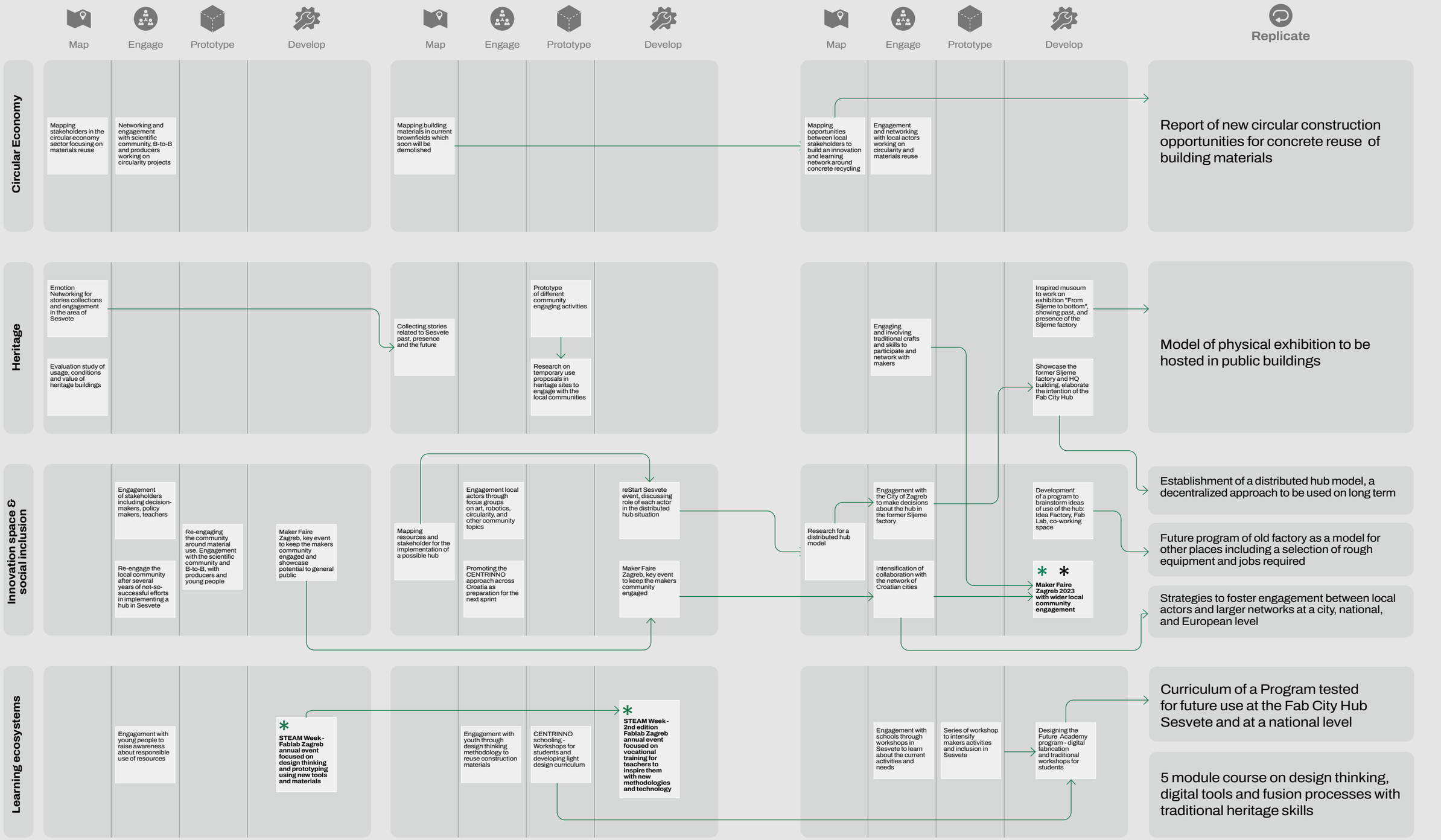
Figure 28. *Map of the Zagreb pilot area by Metabolic Insititute.*

Mision

To establish a community-driven organisation committed to actively participating in the urban regeneration of the former meat factory in the Sesvete area, with the aim of serving as a source of inspiration for the transformation of similar brownfields across Croatia.

+40	+440	+10	3750	+40
Cartography resources	Participants in CENTRINNO Schools	Living archive stories	Participants in public events	Active stakeholders in the community

Figure 29. *Zagreb Pilot Key Performance Indicators*



SPRINT 1: M8-M14

Inclusive community: CENTRINNO open day or HUB_S Kick-off

SPRINT 2: M19-M25

Entrepreneurial Mindset Shift

SPRINT 3: M30-M36

Digital transformation

Legend for acronyms

STEAM= science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics

* Trigger moment for policy recommendation

* Tool development and application

MAKER FAIRE ZAGREB

A community organised event format to launch your next crazy DIY innovation

Offline
Setting

Makers, makerspaces, fab labs, general public
Target

Event
Format

Photo by Zagreb pilot

What is it about?

Maker Faire is a community-organised event that celebrates the DIY spirit of making and innovation. This format offers great flexibility regarding scale, duration of activities, and the types of public participation it accommodates. One of the main objectives is to organise a significant event that could serve to build and/or strengthen a community of makers. This is done through hands-on activities, interactive projects, and workshops showcasing various projects to motivate and inspire participants.

Story behind

The Zagreb pilot has organised the Maker Faire event since 2019 as a powerful tool to build and engage a strong and diversified community of makers for the local Fab City Hub (FCHs) as well as to foster a culture of creativity and innovation among a broader public.

Key steps

- Preparation: before the event, organisers need to liaise with key actors and interesting maker projects, consider the logistics, and implement a communication campaign.
- Execution of the event
- Reporting: after the event, organisers evaluate the information collected from participants and use it to improve future events

Recommendations for future applications

- Provide a space and give visibility to the local makers' community working on innovative projects related to the circular economy and upcycling
- Promote activities that foster connections among multidisciplinary actors (students, creatives, and SMEs)
- Use the event for attracting future FCHs's stakeholders and creating opportunities for partnerships in new projects
- Consider the use of temporary spaces, such as heritage building or small and medium-sized enterprises offices to showcase projects and network with potential partners

STEAM WEEK

New and innovative ways of learning through a network of facilitators

Offline
Setting

Facilitators, students, universities and fab labs
Target

VT programme
Format

Photo by Zagreb pilot

What is it about?

STEAM week is a training for trainers with impactful hands-on activities. It is not about expensive equipment but more about methodology, which can be replicated within the school classes without significant cost.

STEAM week activities are focused on new and innovative ways of learning. It consists of inspirational presentations and lectures followed by hands-on activities. The Zagreb pilot has been working with more than 100 schools, and their base consists of over 800 facilitators.

Story behind

The Zagreb pilot has over the years worked closely with education organisations on all levels (kindergarten, schools, and universities) to establish a network of facilitators who are interested in exploring new ways of learning.

STEAM week was launched in response to the difficulty of the Zagreb pilot to meet the high demand for workshops with kids received from the schools. Therefore, they decided to organise, at least once a year, activities to train teachers and other educational facilitators through affordable and accessible workshops, aimed at replicating the methodologies in schools.

Recommendations for future applications

- Starting with a limited number of schools and engaging a few teachers initially is recommended to gradually develop the school network, rather than necessitating a large network from the outset.
- It could be highly beneficial to bring international facilitators with activities that are new to your own educational system and also involve various sectors, from biology and chemistry, to physics and technology fused as much as possible with an artistic approach.

ADVOCATING FOR A PHYSICAL HUB FOR MAKERS IN THE URBAN CONTEXT OF ZAGREB

Related key concepts

Circular Economy
Heritage
Vocational Training
Innovation Spaces
Social Inclusion

Areas of influence

Heritage value and innovation
Policy-making mindsets
Contingency and macro trends
Spatial Planning and Urban Development Frameworks
Regulation
Funding
Knowledge and Capacities

Recommendations

- Cultivating enduring relationships with public bodies, emphasizing the long-term benefits and community impact of projects such as Fab City Hubs
- Showcasing the potential of a distributed network capabilities through local events and strong partnerships
- Facilitating national and international synergies to act as a catalyst of good practices, attract glocally (global and local) cooperation and foster mutual learning
- Designing and sharing viable and inspiring pathways for old industrial buildings at the intersection between urban mining, museum of stories and place for learning and prototyping
- Empowering community ownership implementing strategies for people to be able to run Fab City Hub's operations in the future

Practical case

The initiative in Sesvete to convert an abandoned meat factory into a Fab City Hub exemplifies a collaborative effort between Fablab Zagreb and the Faculty of Architecture. However, encountering challenges in securing access to the location prompted the exploration of various strategies to advance the project.
To overcome obstacles, the team engaged the community in co-creating activities aimed at reimagining the potential uses of the factory. Initiatives like Urban Mining Cartography and the Living Archive Stories were born from these collaborative efforts. Moreover, community engagement was nurtured through extensive communication and project exposure across borders. Events such as Maker Faire Zagreb, STEAM Day/Week, and ReSTART Sesvete were pivotal in fostering connections from neighborhoods to cities and even across countries.

Recognizing the strength of distributed networks, the team emphasized their value in establishing a physical hub while leveraging partnerships with distributed entities. This strategy ensured resilience in both current and future scenarios. Despite hurdles, the team remained resolute, actively seeking new funding avenues and forging partnerships that align with evolving policies.